

XANTHURA LUXUOSA (Lesson). Rio Grande Jay.

Common on the Lower Rio Grande during the winter, but not found on the Upper Rio Grande or in Texas, excepting as a straggler from Mexico.

[To be continued.]

XXXVIII.—*Description of a new Species of Tanager of the genus Iridornis.* By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., F.R.S., &c.

(Plate XI.)

PROFESSOR J. T. REINHARDT, of Copenhagen, has kindly placed in my hands for description a specimen of a very new and beautiful species of Tanager of the genus *Iridornis*. The example in question was presented to Professor Reinhardt in 1845, when at Lima, during his voyage round the world in the 'Galathea,' by Don Mariano Rivero of that city, and is now in the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen. It was obtained along with some other skins on the eastern slope of the Peruvian Cordilleras. I propose to call this bird after my friend Professor Reinhardt, who has rendered such eminent services to zoology:—

IRIDORNIS REINHARDTI, sp. nov. (Pl. XI.)

Pileo, capitis lateribus et gutture toto cum dorso summo nigerimis: fascia lata cervicis posticæ, utrinque expansa, aureo-flava: dorso medio, alarum tectricibus et pectore summo cæruleis, dorso postico in viridem transeunte: alis et cauda nigris, viridescenti-cæruleo extus limbatis: ventre toto cum crisso fusciscenti-nigro, viridescence-cæruleo perfuso: rostro nigro, mandibula inferiore partim albicante: pedibus obscure corylinis. Long. tota 6·3, alæ 3·2, caudæ 2·6, rostri a rictu 0·55, tarsi 0·9, poll. Angl. et dec.

Hab. Peruvix reg. orientalis.

Mus. Univ. Hafniensis.

Sp. affinis *I. dubusia* et omninò ejusdem formæ, sed pileo nigro torque nuchali lato aureo facile distinguenda!

This new Tanager is of exactly the same form as *T. dubusia*, and therefore a typical member of the genus. The two remaining species, *T. analis* and its ally *T. porphyrocephala*, are, as I

have observed in my synopsis of the group (P. Z. S. 1856, p. 243), rather abnormal, having the bill less compressed and more nearly resembling that of a typical *Tanagra*.

XXXIX.—*Notes on the Birds of Spitsbergen.* By ALFRED
NEWTON, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

[Concluded from page 219.]

SPITSBERGEN is one of those countries which has long shared the questionable privilege of being accounted the home of various birds which are either extremely rare, or have their summer retreats little known. Some of my oological readers cannot fail to have had misgivings, and these not always slight ones, that certain of their high-priced egg-treasures may not after all have been brought from the distant region which their vendors assigned to them as the land of their birth. Many such readers, I am afraid, will derive little comfort from the perusal of the latter part of these notes: but I feel sure there will be others sufficiently stout-hearted to discard at once from their collections the reputed eggs of the Knot, the Grey Plover, and I know not how many more birds, when they now find there is no reason to believe that any of these species frequent Spitsbergen. That the ornithological exploration of the country is far from being complete I of course freely admit; but at the same time it will be seen from the following catalogue of the birds hitherto observed there, that a good deal has been done towards getting an accurate knowledge of its *Ornis*, and especially with regard to the species which actually breed within its limits.

The earliest account of the ornithology of Spitsbergen with which I am acquainted is that contained in the Voyage of Frederick Marten or Martens (for I find the name spelled in both ways). This is one of those delightful old books which one cannot take up without feeling revived and invigorated by the freshness and originality of its quaint sentences. It is, of course, not free from ridiculous blunders which every school-boy in these days could detect; but the errors and absurdities have a charm of their own, and they are all those proper to the prehistoric age, so to speak, of natural science, while the infor-



J. Wolf del, et lith.

M & N. Harhart imp

IRIDORNIS REINHARDTI